

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for streaming data comprising a content providing server capable of storing content and communicating the content to ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of client terminator units via a communications network in response to requests for the content, and a distribution server coupled in-line between the content providing server and the ~~at least a first and a second~~ plurality of client terminator units, wherein the distribution server is arranged to generate ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of onward data streams and transmit the ~~at least the first and second~~ the plurality of onward data streams to the ~~at least a first and a second~~ plurality of client terminator units, respectively, in response to control data received from the content providing server and in response to an incoming data stream received or being received from the content providing server, the incoming data stream corresponding to the content, wherein the ~~at least the first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and ~~[[are]]~~ the distribution server ~~offset~~ offsets in time each of the plurality of onward data streams with respect to ~~each other~~ a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a ~~respective~~ single offset value indicated in the control data.
2. (currently amended) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ~~first and/or the second~~ plurality of onward data streams ~~are~~ is generated prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.
3. (previously presented) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the offset value is provided by the content providing server.
4. (currently amended) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the distribution server is arranged to loop the a first one of the plurality of onward data stream at least once.
5. (currently amended) A multicast server for streaming data, comprising a processor unit coupled to a storage device and a router, the processor unit being arranged to receive control data from a content providing server and to receive an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in

response to requests for the content, and being arranged to store at least part of the incoming data stream in the storage device, wherein the processor unit is further arranged to generate ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of onward data streams for transmission to ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of client terminator units, respectively, in response to the control data received from the content providing server and in response to the incoming data stream received or being received from the content providing server, wherein the ~~at least the first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein each of the plurality of onward data streams ~~are~~ is offset in time by the multicast server with respect to ~~each other~~ a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a respective single offset value indicated in the control data.

6. (currently amended) A multicast server as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the router is arranged to transmit the ~~at least a first and a second~~ plurality of onward data streams to the ~~at least the first and the second~~ plurality of client terminator units, respectively.

7. (currently amended) A multicast server as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the ~~first and/or the second~~ plurality of onward data streams are generated prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A multicast server as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the processor unit is arranged to loop the a first one of the plurality of onward data stream at least once.

10. (currently amended) A method of streaming data between a content providing server and ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of client terminator units, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a distribution server control data sent from the content providing server;

receiving at the distribution server at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content;

in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of an incoming data stream, generating ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of onward data streams, and

transmitting the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams to the ~~first and second~~ plurality of client terminator units, respectively;

wherein the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein are each of said plurality of onward streams is offset in time with respect to ~~each other~~ a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a respective single offset value indicated in the control data.

11. (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising generating the ~~at least first and/or the second~~ plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising the step of looping the ~~a first~~ one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.

14. (currently amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code being for streaming data between a content providing server and ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of client terminator units, the code comprising:

code to receive control data sent from the content providing server;

code to receive at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content,

code to generate, in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of the incoming data stream, ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of onward data stream streams;

code to transmit the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams to the ~~first and second~~ plurality of client terminator units, respectively,

wherein the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein ~~[[are]]~~ each of said plurality of onward streams is offset in time with respect to ~~each other~~ a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a ~~respective~~ single offset value indicated in the control data.

15. (currently amended) Computer executable software code as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising:

code to generate the ~~at least first and/or the second~~ plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) Computer executable software code as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising:

code to loop ~~the~~ a first one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.

18. (currently amended) A programmed computer for streaming data between a content providing server and ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of client terminator ~~unit~~ units, comprising memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code, and

a processor for executing the program code stored in memory, wherein the program code includes:

code to receive control data sent from the content providing server;

code to receive at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content,

code to generate, in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of the incoming data stream, ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of onward data streams;

code to transmit the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams to the ~~first and second~~ plurality of client terminator units, respectively,

wherein the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein ~~[[are]]~~ each of said plurality of onward

streams is offset in time with respect to each other a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a ~~respective~~ single offset value indicated in the control data.

19. (currently amended) A programmed computer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the program code further comprises:

code to generate the ~~at least first and/or the second~~ plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A programmed computer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the program code further comprises:

code to loop ~~the~~ a first one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.

22. (currently amended) A computer readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code being for streaming data between a content providing server and ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of client terminator ~~unit~~ units and comprising:

code to receive control data sent from the content providing server;

code to receive at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content,

code to generate, in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of the incoming data stream, ~~at least a first and a second~~ a plurality of onward data streams;

code to transmit the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams to the ~~first and second~~ plurality of client terminator units, respectively,

wherein the ~~first and second~~ plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein [[are]] each of said plurality of onward streams is offset in time with respect to each other a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a ~~respective~~ single offset value indicated in the control data.

23. (currently amended) A computer readable medium as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising:

code to generate the ~~at least first and/or the second~~ plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) A computer readable medium as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising:

code to loop ~~the~~ a first one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.